



## **The Law and Regulation Governing Physical Therapists Documenting in the Patient Records**

### **Business and Professions Code**

#### **2620.7. Patient Records**

- (a) A physical therapist shall document his or her evaluation, goals, treatment plan, and summary of treatment in the patient record.
- (b) A physical therapist shall document the care actually provided to a patient in the patient record.
- (c) A physical therapist shall sign the patient record legibly.
- (d) Patient records shall be maintained for a period of no less than seven years following the discharge of the patient, except that the records of unemancipated minors shall be maintained at least one year after the minor has reached the age of 18 years, and not in any case less than seven years.

### **Title 16, California Code of Regulations**

#### **1399.85. Patient Records**

- (a) A physical therapist shall document in the patient record the following:
  - (1) Examination and re-examination
  - (2) Evaluation, when the patient is to be reevaluated and the reevaluation
  - (3) Diagnosis
  - (4) Prognosis and intervention
  - (5) Treatment plan and modification of the plan of care
  - (6) Each treatment provided.
  - (7) Discharge summary.

Each entry shall be dated and signed by the treating physical therapist. Adjacent to the treating physical therapist's signature or at least on every page if there are multiple entries on a single page shall be the printed or stamped name of the treating physical therapist.